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In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Each non-English language reference was first cited in a corresponding foreign application search report or office action and its relevance discussed therein. A copy of the

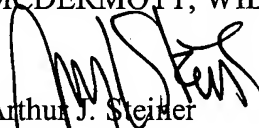
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foreign search report or office action, together with an English language version thereof, is attached for the Examiner's information.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION  (PTO-1449)				ATTY. DOCKET NO. 57810-078		SERIAL NO. 10/663,663	
				APPLICANT Masaki SHIMA, et al.			
				FILING DATE September 17, 2003		GROUP 2878	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sub>2</sub> (if known)		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document		Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
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		US	6,103,138	08/15/2000	Kondo		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Foreign Patent Document Country Codes -Number 4 -Kind Codes (if known)	Publication Date MY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Figures Appear	Translation	
						Yes	No
		EP 1 241 711 A2	09/18/2002	CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA			
		EP 1 032 052 A1	08/30/2000	KANEKA CORPORATION			
OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.					
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